MARVEL® COMICS

MARVEL PG 42 483

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

STRACZYNSKI
ROMITA JR
HANNA

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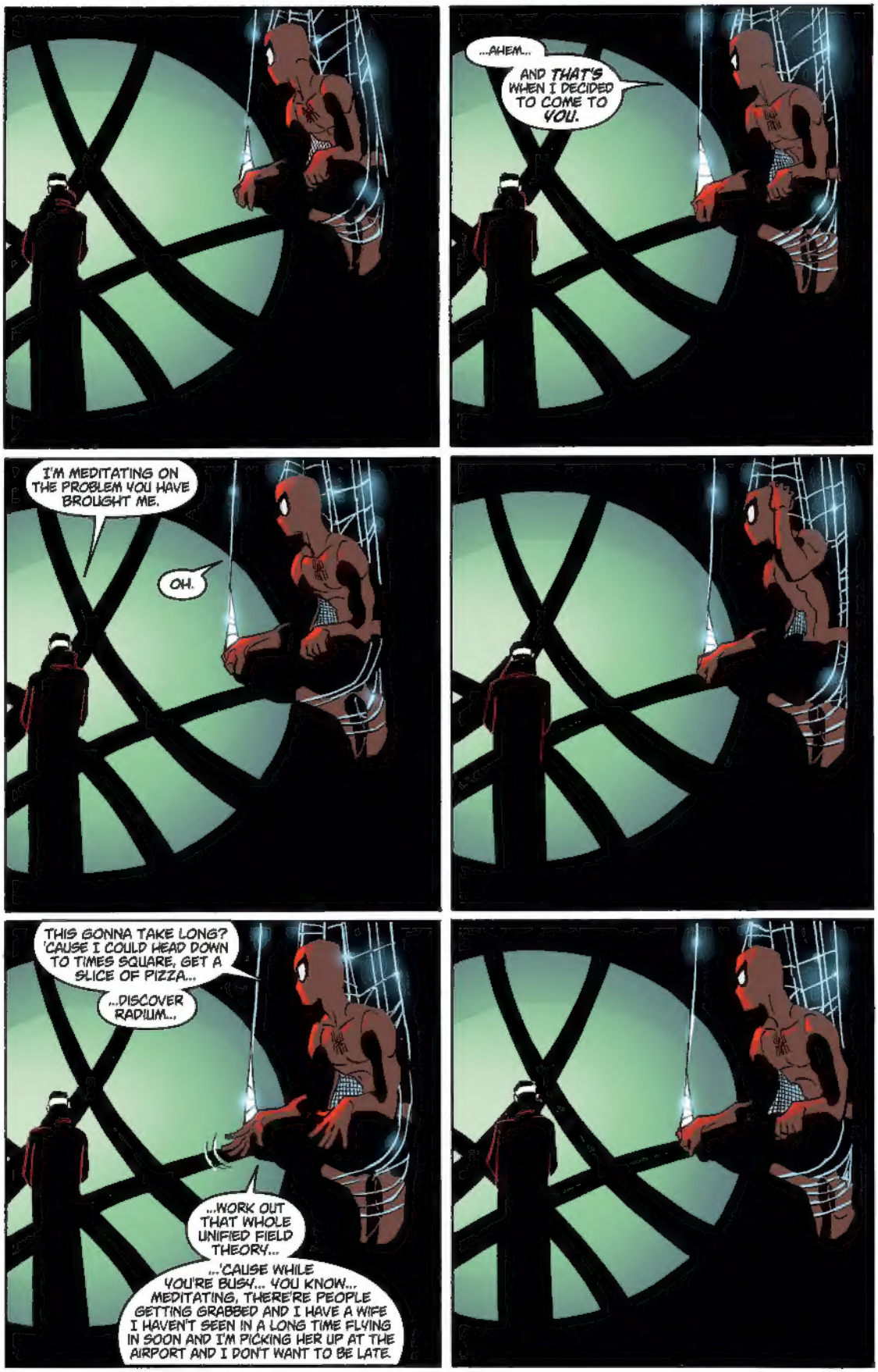
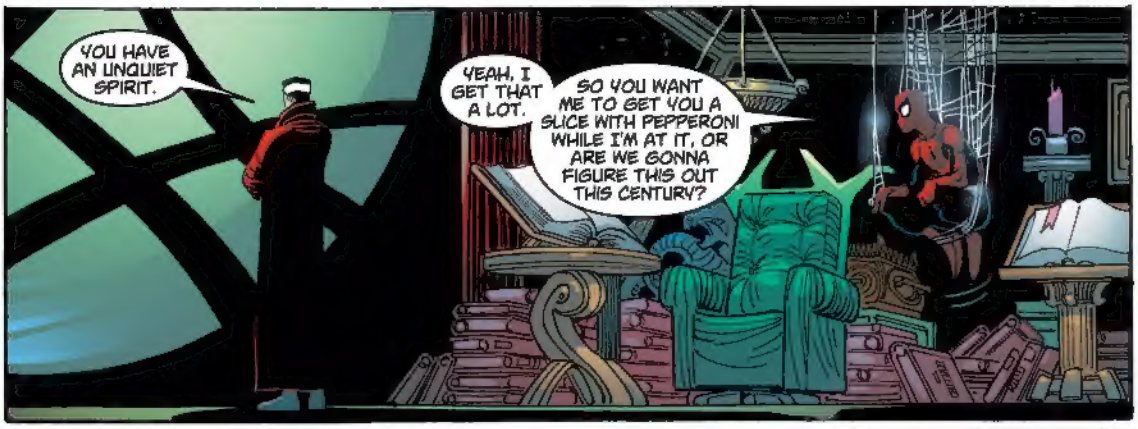

...AHEM...
AND THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED TO COME TO YOU.
I'M MEDITATING ON THE PROBLEM YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME.
OH.
THIS GONNA TAKE LONG? 'CAUSE I COULD HEAD DOWN TO TIMES SQUARE, GET A SLICE OF PIZZA...
...DISCOVER RADIUM...
...WORK OUT THAT WHOLE UNIFIED FIELD THEORY...
...'CAUSE WHILE YOU'RE BUSY... YOU KNOW... MEDITATING, THERE'RE PEOPLE GETTING GRABBED AND I HAVE A WIFE I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A LONG TIME FLYING IN SOON AND I'M PICKING HER UP AT THE AIRPORT AND I DON'T WANT TO BE LATE.


YOU HAVE AN UNQUIET SPIRIT.
YEAH, I GET THAT A LOT.
SO YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU A SLICE WITH PEPPERONI WHILE I'M AT IT, OR ARE WE GONNA FIGURE THIS OUT THIS CENTURY?

ONE DOES NOT ENTER THE ASTRAL PLANE UNPREPARED. IF THE ONE YOU CALL THE SHADE DID NOT PREPARE HIMSELF, AND IF THE SPELL OF ENTRY WAS DISRUPTED, THE GATEWAY TO THE ASTRAL PLANE WOULD HAVE BEEN DAMAGED. THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ANYONE PASSING THROUGH A FLAWED GATEWAY WOULD BE DIRE INDEED.

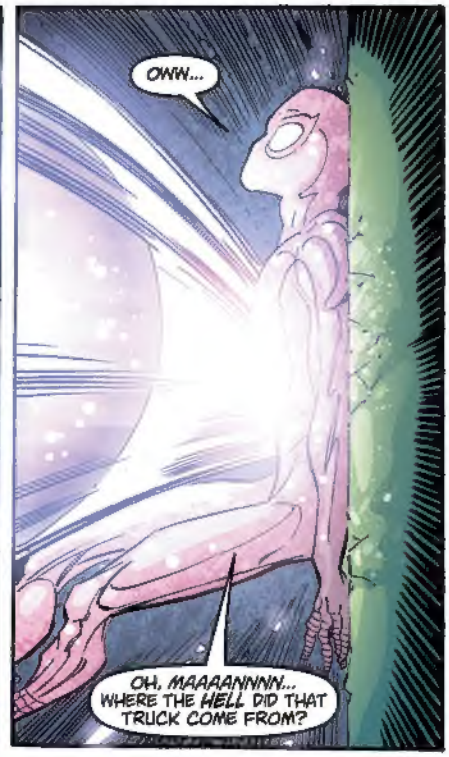
FOR ALL THINGS, THERE MUST BE A BALANCE. IT MAY BE THAT, IN ORDER TO RETURN HERE FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME, HE MUST BALANCE THE SCALES BY BRINGING SOMEONE FROM HERE INTO THE ASTRAL PLANE, ALLOWING HIM TO FUNCTION IN THIS REALITY FOR A SET PERIOD OF TIME.

THAT'S WHY HE'S GOING AFTER RUNAWAYS, STREET KIDS AND USERS... PICKING PEOPLE NOBODY'S GONNA MISS.
EXACTLY.
OKAY, SO NOW THAT WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST, WHEN DO WE GO AFTER HIM?

WE DON'T. YOU DO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE DON'T? I MEAN, YOU'RE LIKE THE SORCERER'S MONTHLY FOLD-OUT FOR THE ASTRAL PLANE. YOU LIKE FUZZY ANIMALS AND SAVING WORLDS AND YOUR TURN-OFFS ARE RUDE PEOPLE AND GUYS WITH MOIST, GRABBY TENTACLES --
-- WHICH IS MOST GUYS, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT --
I'M SORRY.

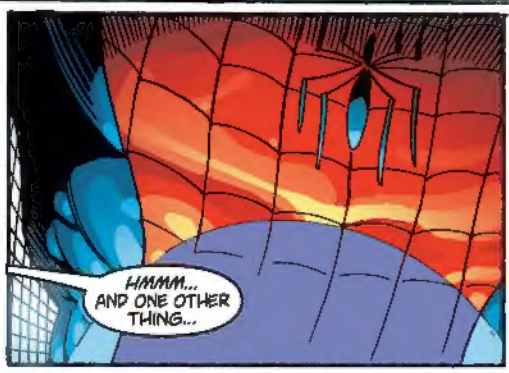
I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT THAT I CANNOT MISS.
SURE YOU CAN. TELL 'EM YOU'RE BUSY. TELL 'EM YOU WENT OUT WITH AN OLD WAR BUDDY AND WE'RE COMPARING SCARS --
AN APPOINTMENT... WITH DEATH.*
OKAY. YOU GOT ME ON THAT ONE. WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO GUIDE YOU INTO THE ASTRAL PLANE AND RETURN YOU SAFELY TO THE WORLD YOU KNOW, BUT I HAVE NEED OF ITS POWERS. SO INSTEAD...
...THE HAND OF THE VISHANTI WILL HAVE TO SUFFICE.
DO. NOT. MOVE.
WAITAMINNIT... DON'T I GET TO --
* As seen in the Doctor Strange miniseries, "The Other Side of Darkness.**
** Which, okay, hasn't been written yet, but it will be, and then this will make a lot more sense. ***
*** No, really. It will. Would we lie about a thing like that?

AAAAGGGG!


OWW...
OH, MAAAANNNN... WHERE THE HELL DID THAT TRUCK COME FROM?

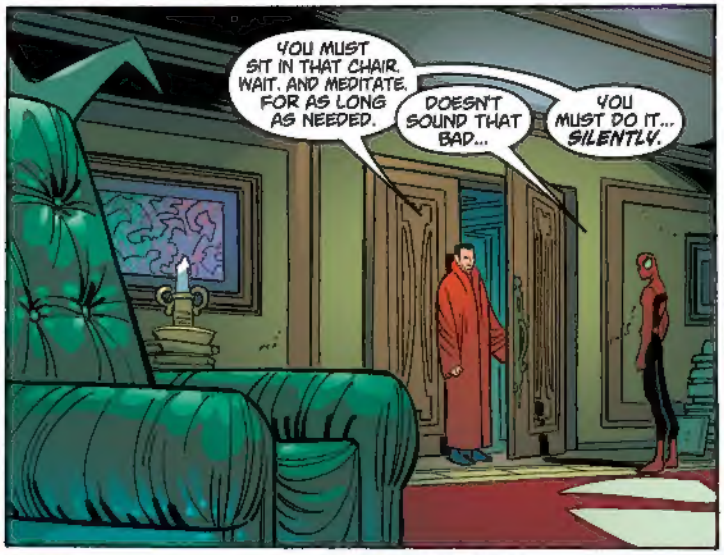
WAS THE PHRASE "DON'T MOVE" REALLY THAT DIFFICULT A CONCEPT?
THE GLOW WILL SOON FADE FROM SIGHT ON THIS SIDE OF REALITY, BUT THEIR POWER REMAINS. WHEN THE PORTAL TO THE ASTRAL PLANE IS OPENED AGAIN, THEY WILL BRING YOUR ASTRAL FORM TO THE PLACE OF MAGICAL POWER. THERE YOU MAY CONFRONT YOUR FOE AND FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE MAY GO, EVEN INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE ASTRAL PLANE ITSELF.
COOL...
SO, WHERE DOES THE ASTRAL PLANE LAND, AND IS THERE ALSO AN ASTRAL HELICOPTER?

CERTAIN THINGS SHOULD NOT BE JOKED ABOUT. YOU MUST APPROACH THIS SITUATION WITH CAUTION, REVERENCE, AND GREAT SERIOUSNESS.


HMMM... AND ONE OTHER THING...

DO NOT LEAVE THE PATH, NO MATTER HOW FAMILIAR OR INVITING SOME THINGS MAY APPEAR. THERE ARE THINGS YOU ARE NOT YET READY TO CONFRONT.

SURE THING, DOC. SO WHAT'S THE PROGRAM FROM HERE?
THE WORST THING YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE.

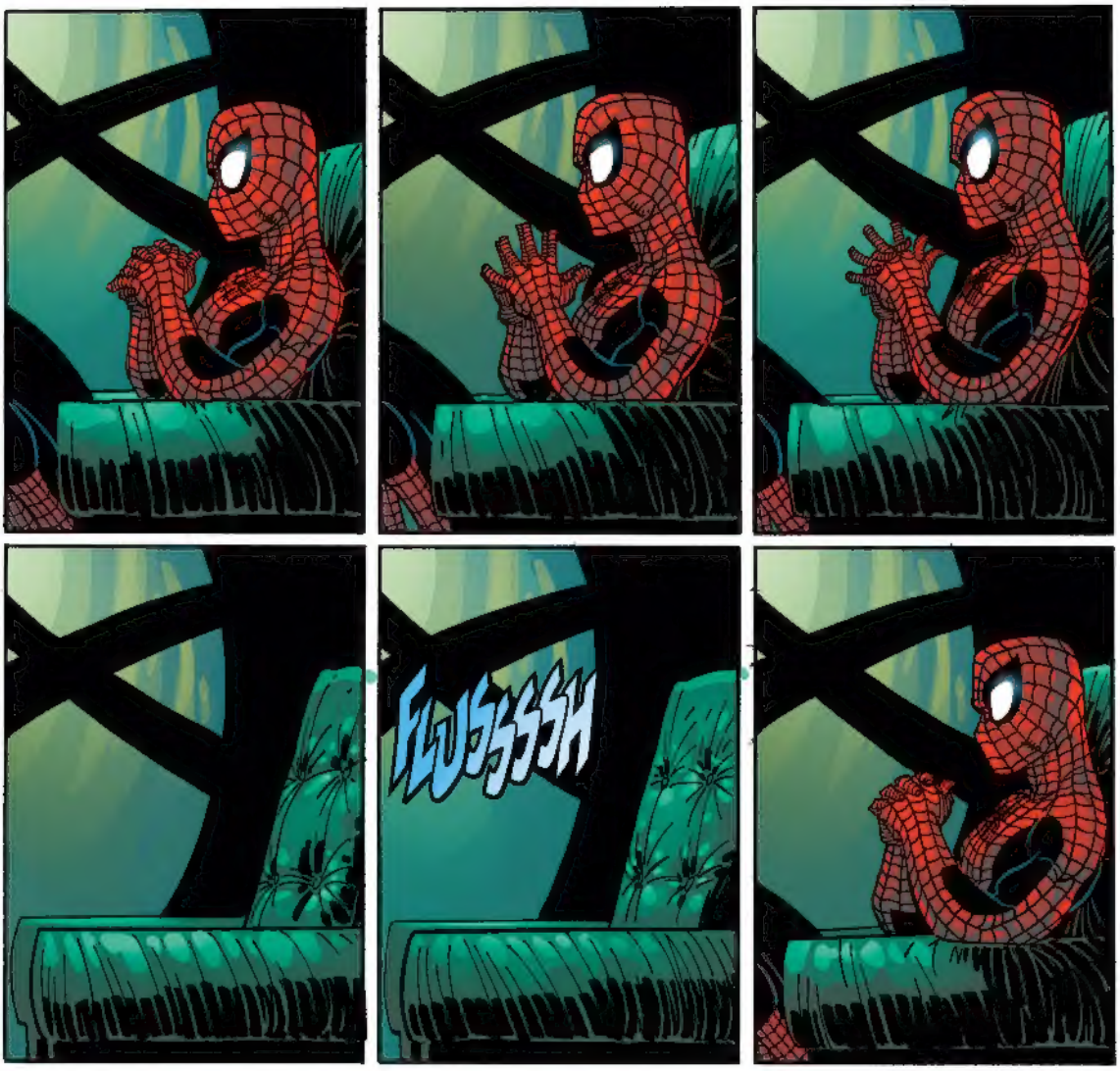

YOU MUST SIT IN THAT CHAIR. WAIT. AND MEDITATE. FOR AS LONG AS NEEDED.
DOESN'T SOUND THAT BAD...
YOU MUST DO IT... SILENTLY.

HA -- COMMA HA -- --COMMA HA.

I MUST GO NOW. DO NOT OPEN THIS DOOR AGAIN UNTIL I RETURN.
IF I RETURN AT ALL.

DOOM

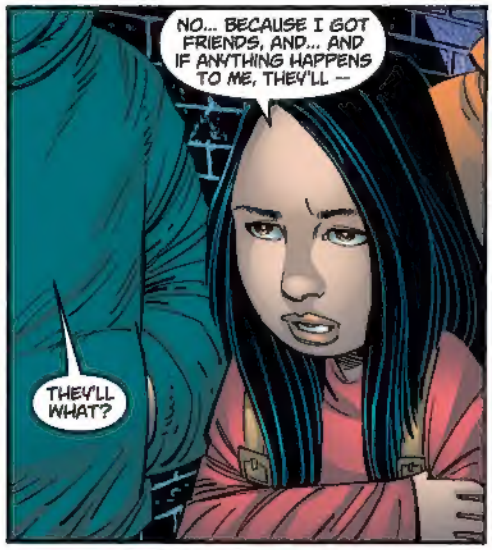
AND TO THINK THE MAN GAVE UP A PROMISING CAREER AS A STAND-UP COMIC FOR THIS...

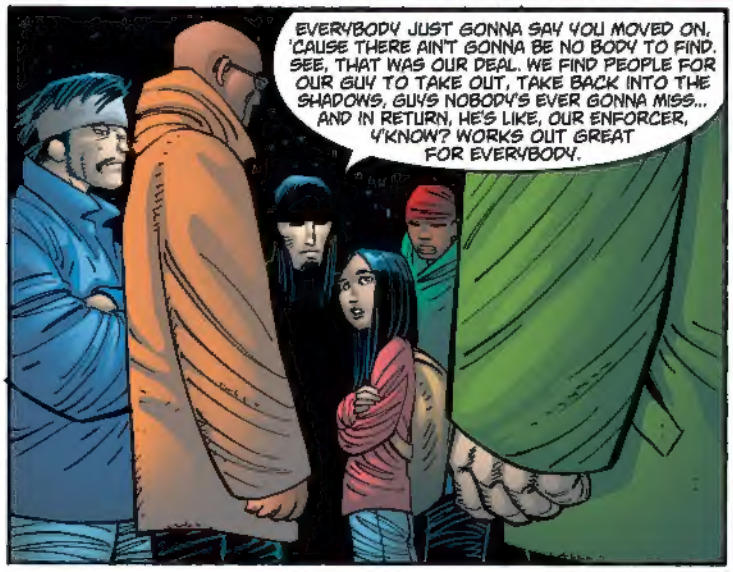

FLUSSSSH

HEY.

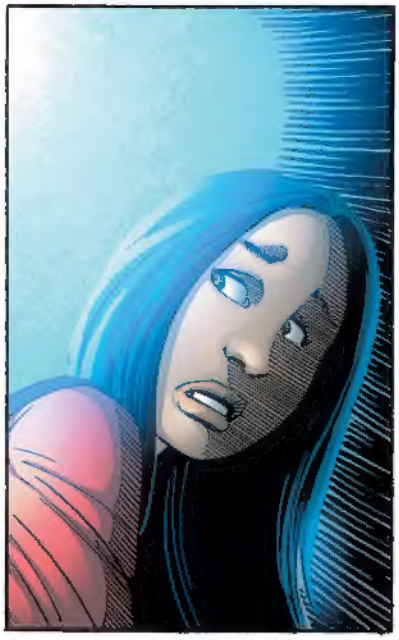
UHHMMM...
SO WHAT'S YOUR FREAKIN' PROBLEM?

I SEEN YOU BRINGING GUYS IN HERE, ASKIN' QUESTIONS, AND THAT CREEP SPIDER-MAN... YOU MESSIN' WITH MY CRIB, LITTLE GIRL... AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
LOOK, YOU DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO ME --
NO?


NO... BECAUSE I GOT FRIENDS, AND... AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, THEY'LL --
THEY'LL WHAT?

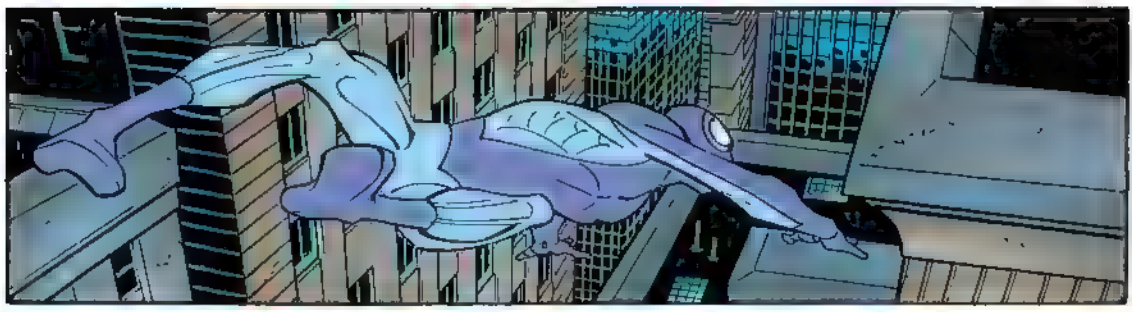

EVERYBODY JUST GONNA SAY YOU MOVED ON, 'CAUSE THERE AIN'T GONNA BE NO BODY TO FIND. SEE, THAT WAS OUR DEAL. WE FIND PEOPLE FOR OUR GUY TO TAKE OUT, TAKE BACK INTO THE SHADOWS, GUYS NOBODY'S EVER GONNA MISS... AND IN RETURN, HE'S LIKE, OUR ENFORCER, Y'KNOW? WORKS OUT GREAT FOR EVERYBODY.

SO NOW WE GONNA DO SOME ENFORCING.

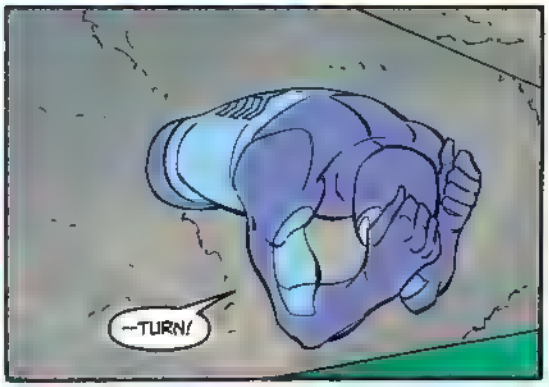


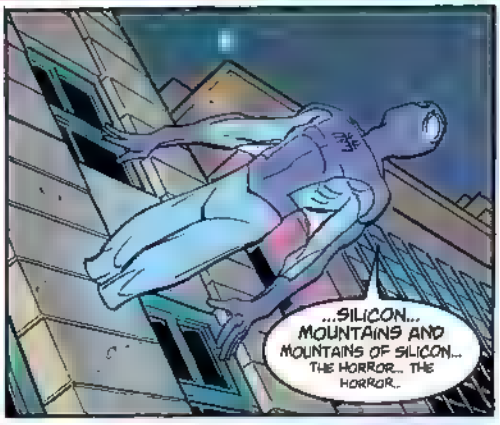
EEEE EEEEE!

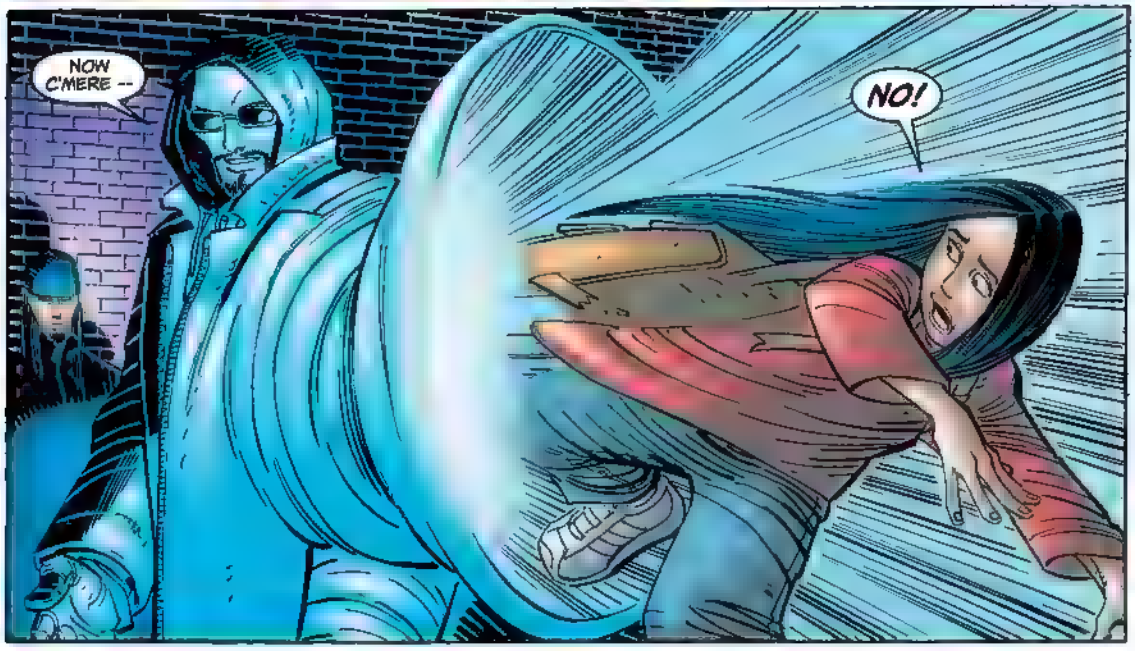
HEY, WHAT THE —
WAITAMINNIT... THIS ISN'T HOW I THOUGHT IT WAS GONNA... I'M LEAVING MY BODY?! WAITAMMINIT... WAITAMINNIT...
WAITAMINNNIIITTTT!
HOLY...!
SO...
...YOU WANNA GO FOR A RIDE WITH A STRANGER?

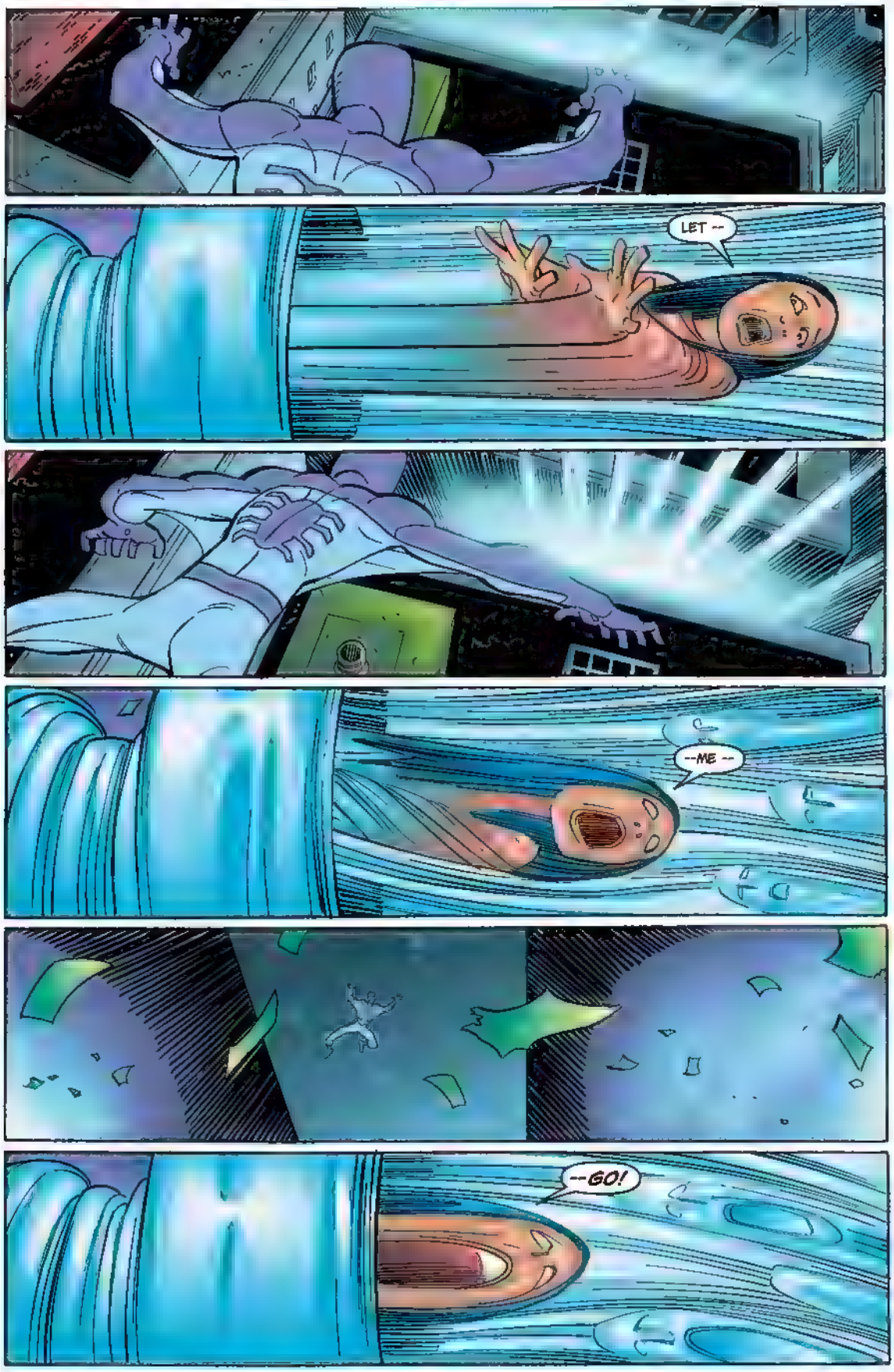


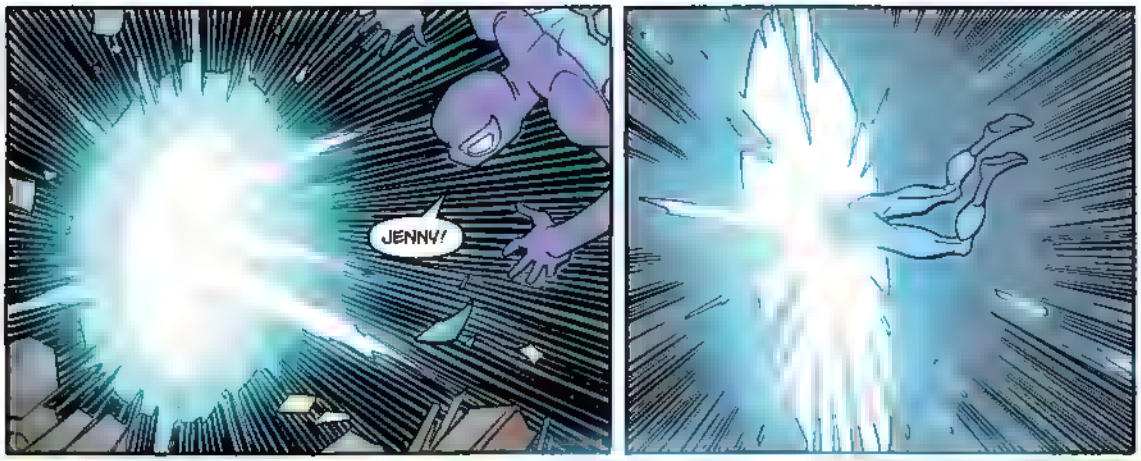
UH-OH... HEADING RIGHT FOR THAT WALL... CAN'T TURN... CAN'T --
YWCA

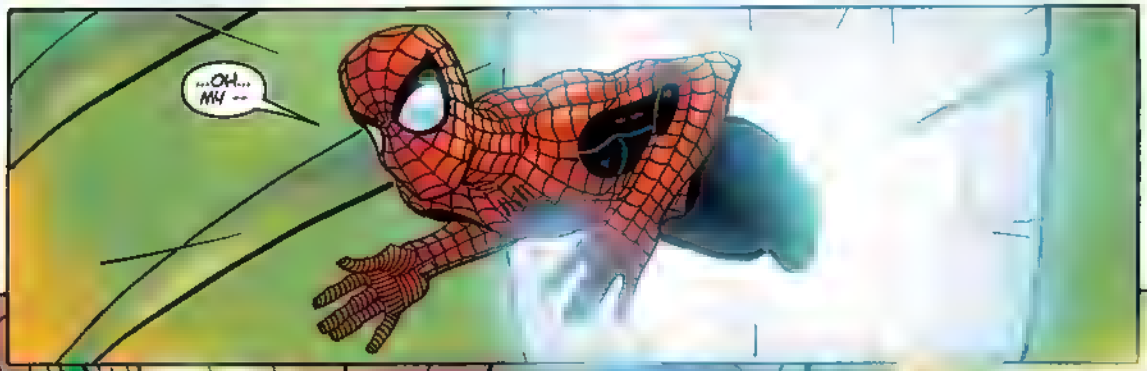

--TURN!


...SILICON... MOUNTAINS AND MOUNTAINS OF SILICON... THE HORROR... THE HORROR...


NOW C'MERE --
NO!

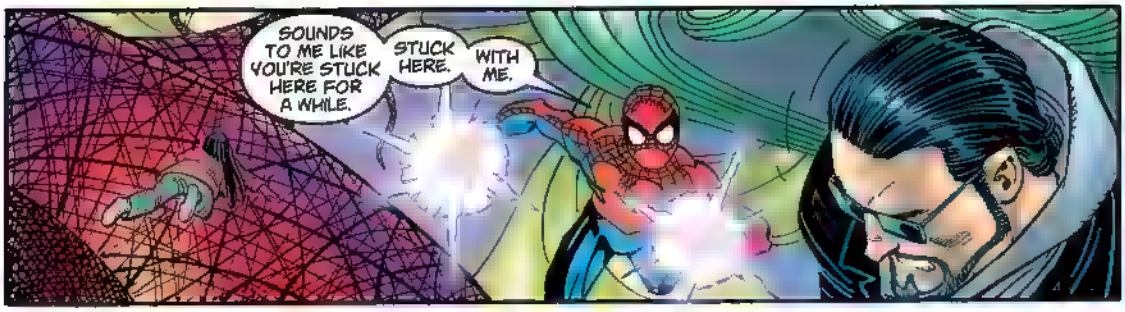

LET --
--ME --
--GO!

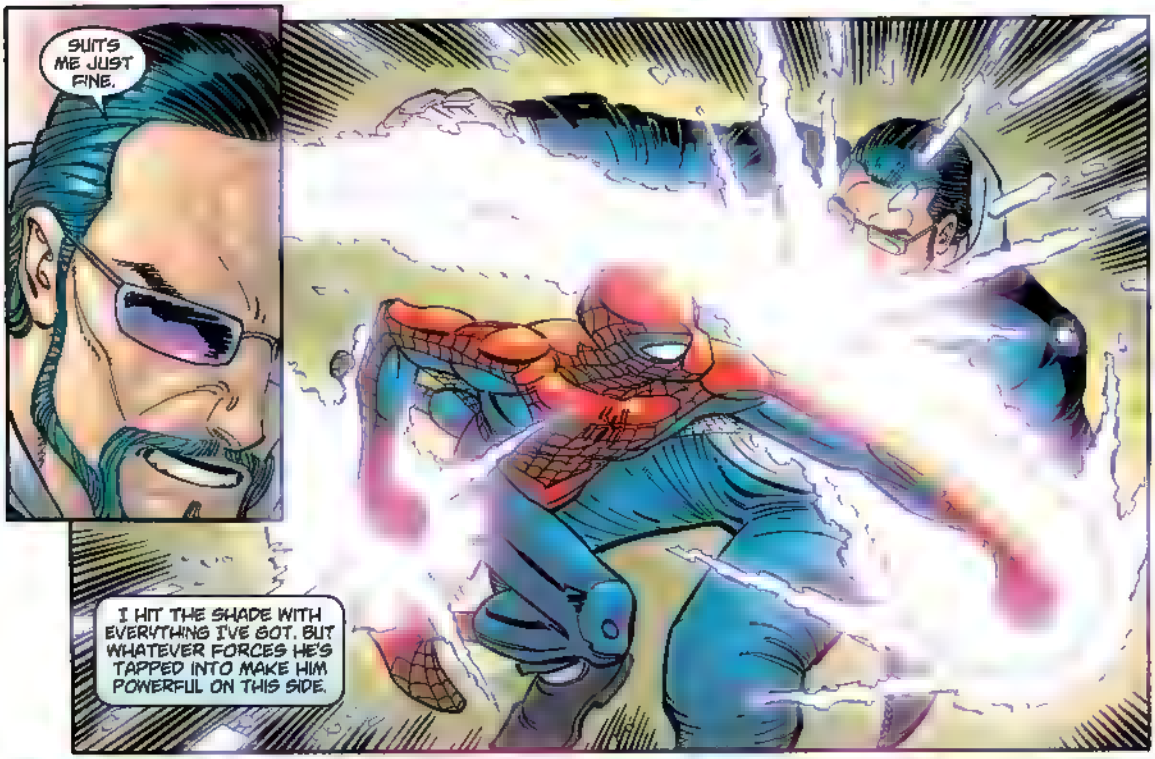

JENNY!

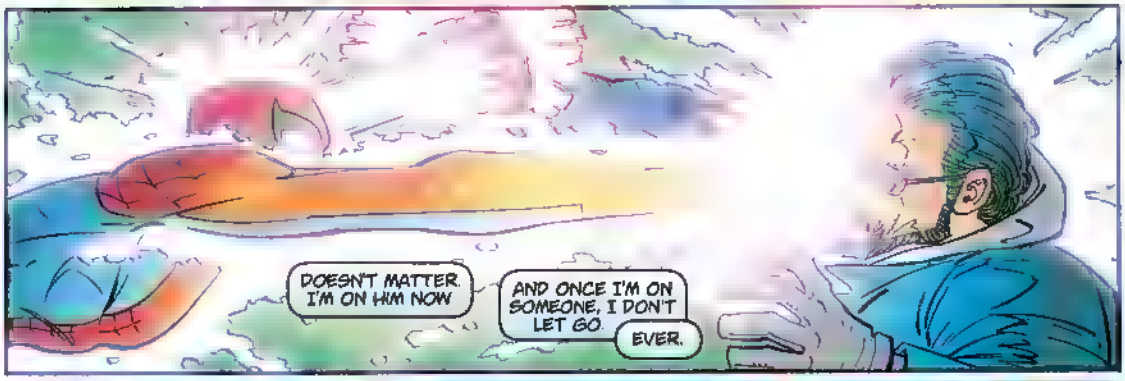

...OH... MY --

--STARS AND GARTERS...

LET ME GO!
SURE THING... JUST GONNA SHOVE YOU IN HERE WITH THE REST SOON AS YOU'RE INSIDE. YOU'RE GONNA BUY ME A WHOLE DAY BEIN' SOLID AGAIN.
NEVER SEEMS TO BE LONG ENOUGH, BUT THEN, TIME DOESN'T WORK THE SAME WAY HERE AS BACK ON THE OTHER SIDE.
NOW WE —
UNGH!
RUN, JENNY! GET CLEAR!

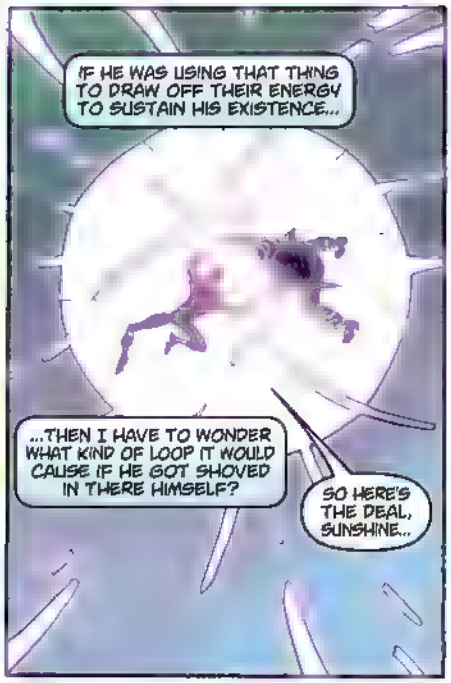

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE STUCK HERE FOR A WHILE.
STUCK HERE.
WITH ME.

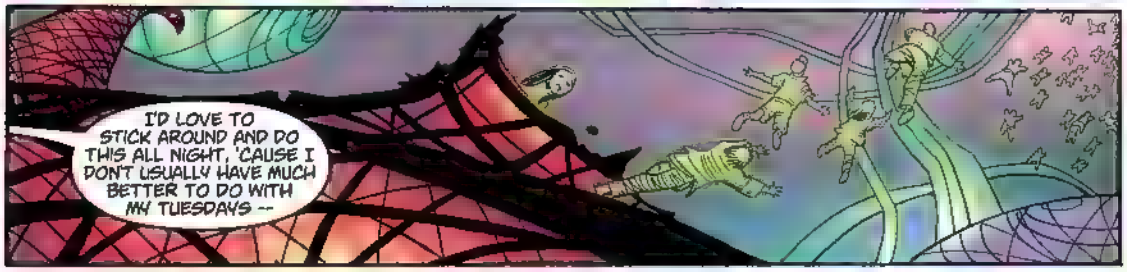

SUIT'S ME JUST FINE.
I HIT THE SHADE WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT. BUT WHATEVER FORCES HE'S TAPPED INTO MAKE HIM POWERFUL ON THIS SIDE.

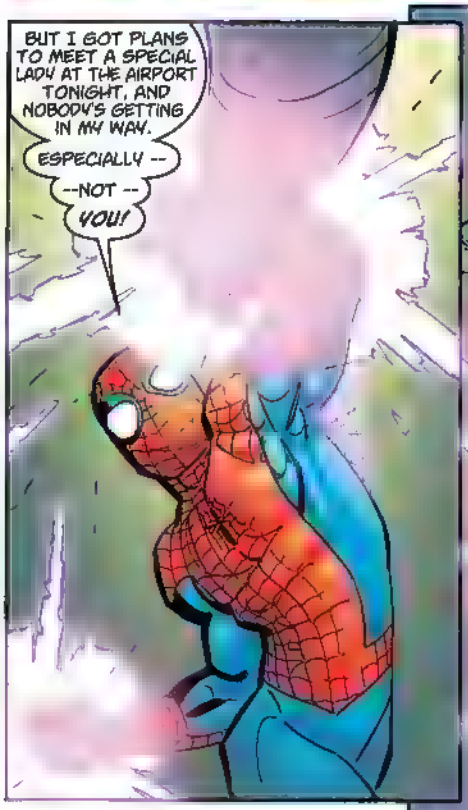

DOESN'T MATTER. I'M ON HIM NOW
AND ONCE I'M ON SOMEONE, I DON'T LET GO.
EVER.

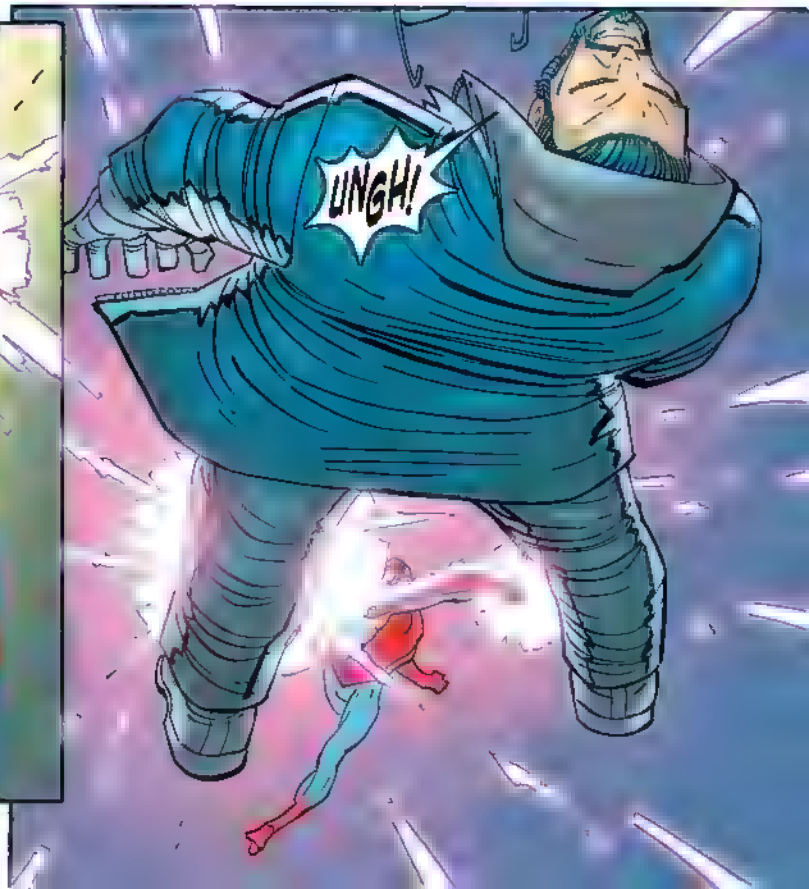
AND THEN I SEE WHAT MAY BE MY ACE IN THE HOLE.
HURRY! C'MON!

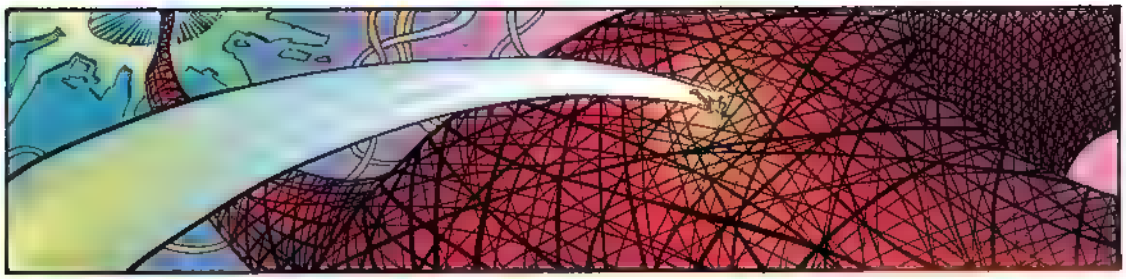
WHAT'S WRONG? I'M NOT HEARING ANY JOKES ALL OF A SUDDEN. MAYBE YOU'RE FINALLY AFRAID OF SOMEBODY FOR A CHANGE?
NO. JUST THINKING. YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT SOMETIME.


IF HE WAS USING THAT THING TO DRAW OFF THEIR ENERGY TO SUSTAIN HIS EXISTENCE...
...THEN I HAVE TO WONDER WHAT KIND OF LOOP IT WOULD CAUSE IF HE GOT SHOVED IN THERE HIMSELF?
SO HERE'S THE DEAL, SUNSHINE...

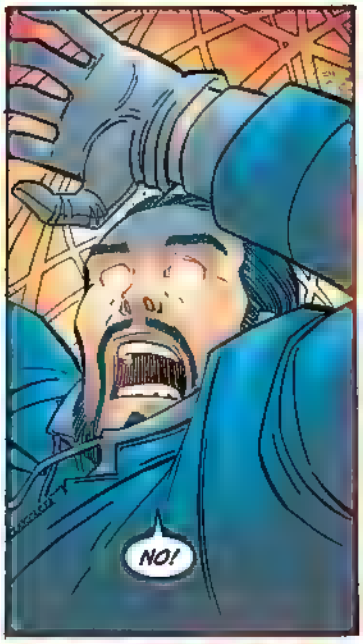

I'D LOVE TO STICK AROUND AND DO THIS ALL NIGHT, 'CAUSE I DON'T USUALLY HAVE MUCH BETTER TO DO WITH MY TUESDAYS --

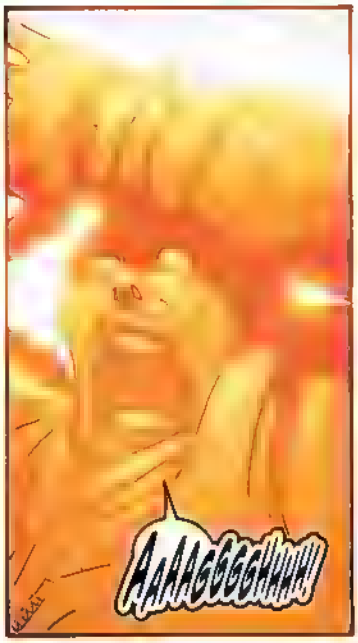

BUT I GOT PLANS TO MEET A SPECIAL LADY AT THE AIRPORT TONIGHT, AND NOBODY'S GETTING IN MY WAY.
ESPECIALLY --
--NOT --
YOU!


UNGH!

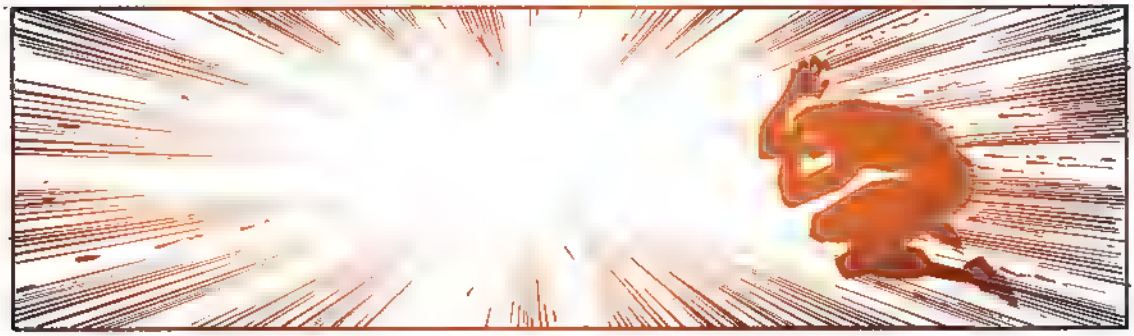


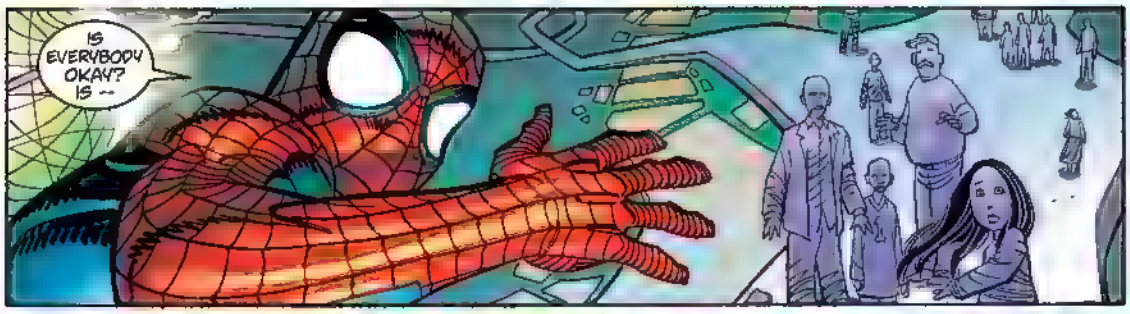
...NO...


NO!


AAAAGGGHHH!

KRAKOOM

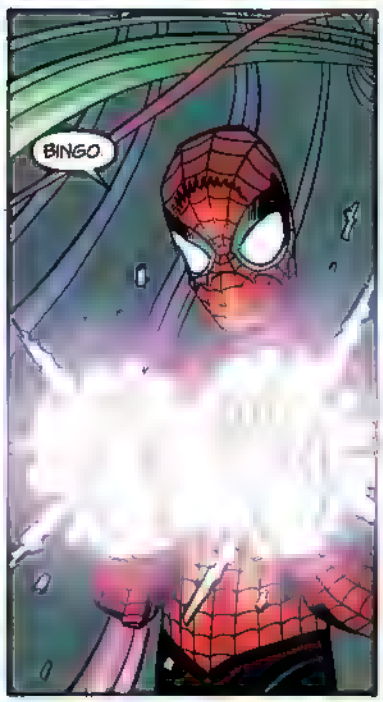



IS EVERYBODY OKAY? IS --

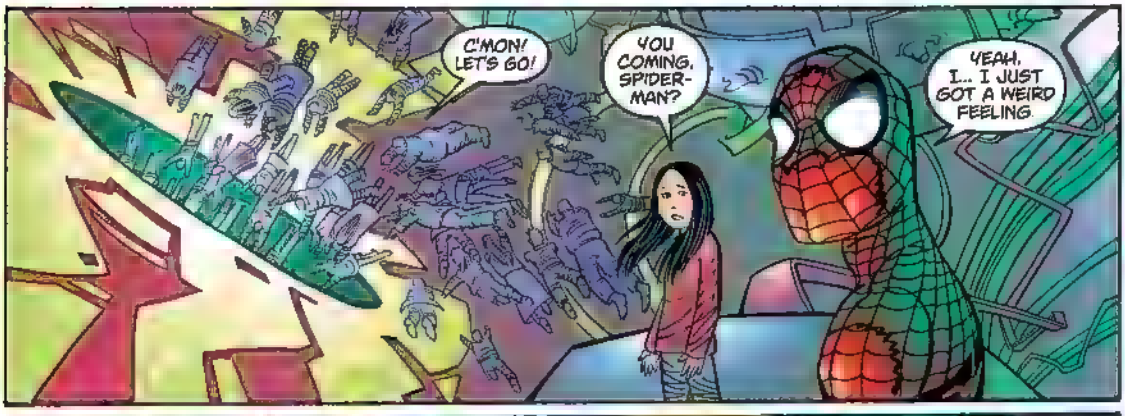
...DUDE...

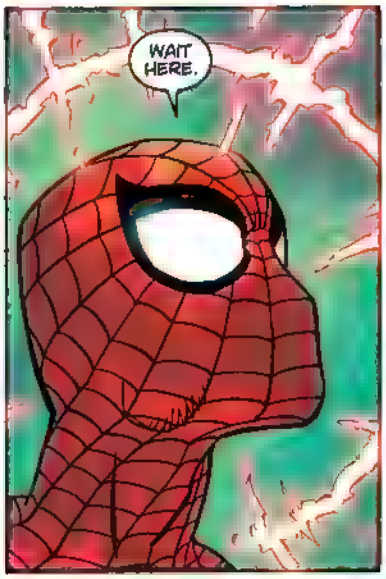
IS HE DEAD?
HE WENT BOOM.
YEAH, BUT IS HE DEAD?
LOOKS LIKE. BUT THAT NEVER SEEMS TO LAST AROUND HERE, DOES IT? HALF THE GUYS I KNOW WERE DEAD AT LEAST ONCE.
DID MOST OF 'EM A WORLD OF GOOD, TOO.

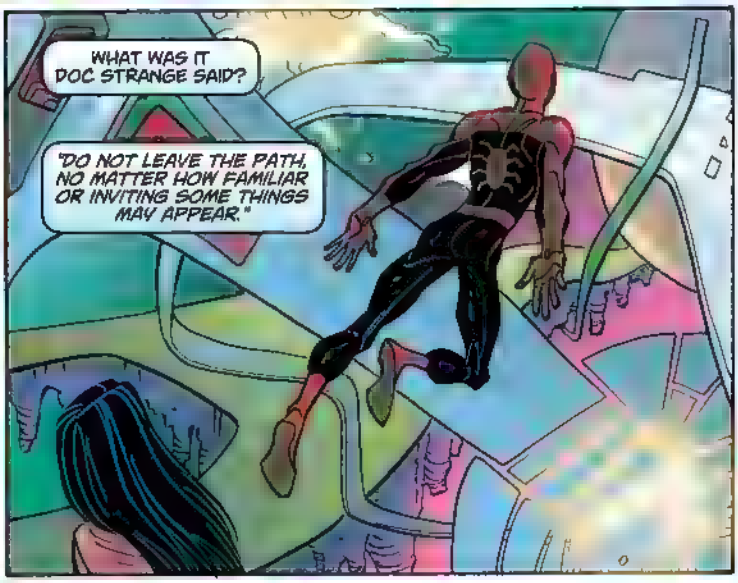
SO HOW DO WE GET OUTTA HERE?
THE DOC SAID THE HAND OF VISHANTI COULD GET ME INTO THE ASTRAL PLANE, SO I'M GONNA HAVE TO GUESS THAT IF I CONCENTRATE, IT CAN GET ME BACK TO --

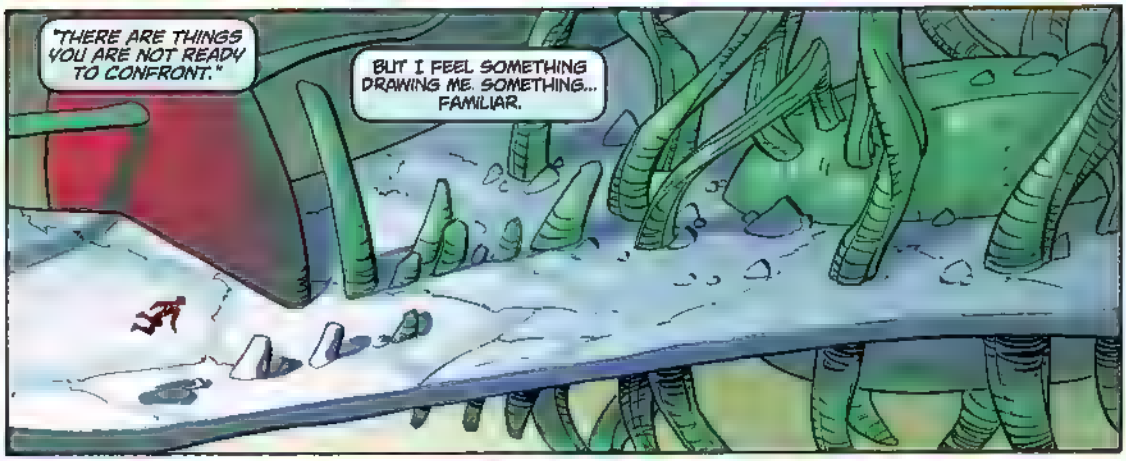

BINGO

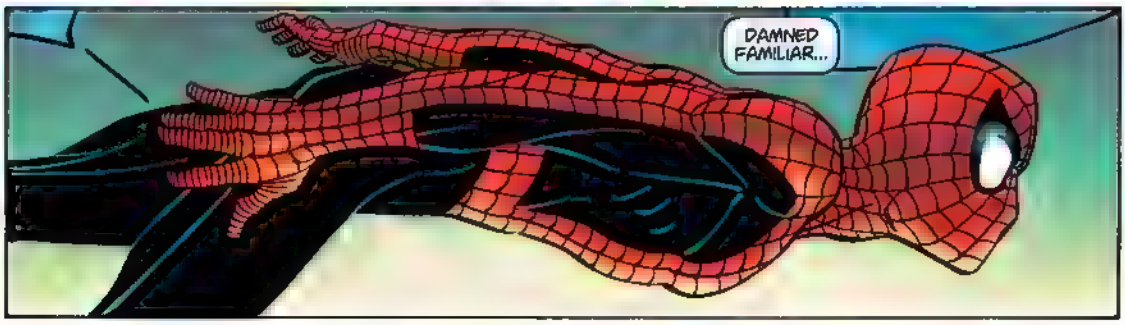
JUST A GUESS... BUT I THINK THAT'S OUR RIDE.

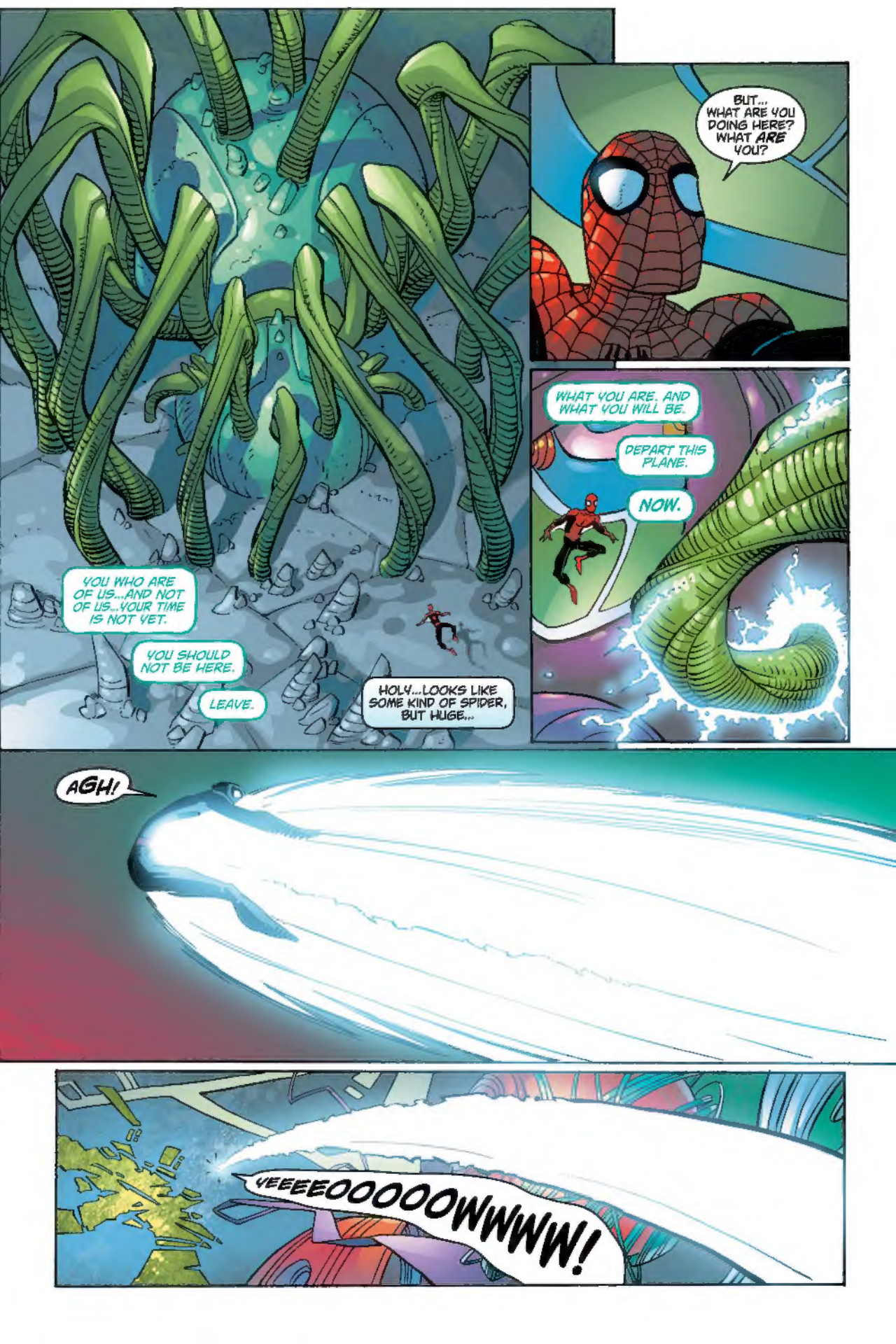

C'MON! LET'S GO!
YOU COMING, SPIDER-MAN?
YEAH, I... I JUST GOT A WEIRD FEELING.


WAIT HERE.

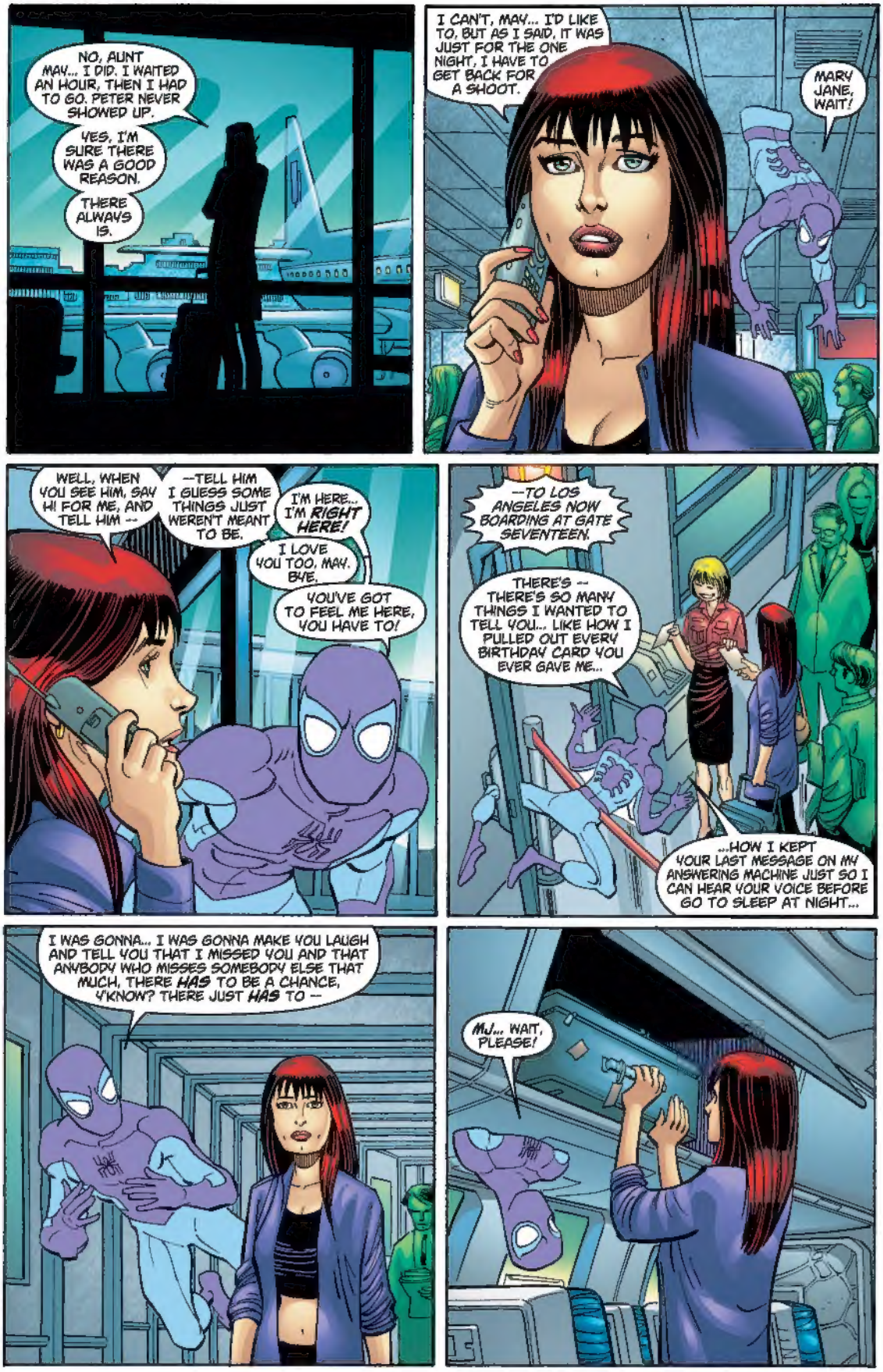

WHAT WAS IT DOC STRANGE SAID?
"DO NOT LEAVE THE PATH, NO MATTER HOW FAMILIAR OR INVITING SOME THINGS MAY APPEAR."


"THERE ARE THINGS YOU ARE NOT READY TO CONFRONT."
BUT I FEEL SOMETHING DRAWING ME. SOMETHING... FAMILIAR.


DAMNED FAMILIAR...


YOU WHO ARE OF US...AND NOT OF US...YOUR TIME IS NOT YET.
YOU SHOULD NOT BE HERE.
LEAVE.
HOLY...LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF SPIDER, BUT HUGE...
BUT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT ARE YOU?
WHAT YOU ARE. AND WHAT YOU WILL BE.
DEPART THIS PLANE.
NOW.
AGH!
YEEEEOOOOOWWWW!

OW!
LOOK --
-- OUT!
SPIDER-MAN? WHERE'D YOU GO?
SPIDER-MAN?
SHE CAN'T SEE ME ON THIS SIDE. NO PROBLEM. JUST GO TO THE DOC AND HE'LL PUT ME BACK IN MY BODY --
NO! CAN'T BE...
WAIT...THE SHADE SAID THAT TIME DOESN'T WORK THE SAME WAY ON THE ASTRAL PLANE AS IT DOES HERE... SO THE FIGHT TOOK LONGER HERE THAN...
IT'S WEDNESDAY MORNING!
MARY JANE CAME INTO TOWN LAST NIGHT!
LAST NIGHT!


NO, AUNT MAY... I DID. I WAITED AN HOUR, THEN I HAD TO GO. PETER NEVER SHOWED UP.
YES, I'M SURE THERE WAS A GOOD REASON.
THERE ALWAYS IS.
I CAN'T, MAY... I'D LIKE TO, BUT AS I SAID, IT WAS JUST FOR THE ONE NIGHT, I HAVE TO GET BACK FOR A SHOOT.
MARY JANE, WAIT!
WELL, WHEN YOU SEE HIM, SAY HI FOR ME, AND TELL HIM --
--TELL HIM I GUESS SOME THINGS JUST WEREN'T MEANT TO BE.
I'M HERE... I'M RIGHT HERE!
I LOVE YOU TOO, MAY. BYE.
YOU'VE GOT TO FEEL ME HERE, YOU HAVE TO!
--TO LOS ANGELES NOW BOARDING AT GATE SEVENTEEN.
THERE'S -- THERE'S SO MANY THINGS I WANTED TO TELL YOU... LIKE HOW I PULLED OUT EVERY BIRTHDAY CARD YOU EVER GAVE ME...
...HOW I KEPT YOUR LAST MESSAGE ON MY ANSWERING MACHINE JUST SO I CAN HEAR YOUR VOICE BEFORE GO TO SLEEP AT NIGHT...
I WAS GONNA... I WAS GONNA MAKE YOU LAUGH AND TELL YOU THAT I MISSED YOU AND THAT ANYBODY WHO MISSES SOMEBODY ELSE THAT MUCH, THERE HAS TO BE A CHANCE, Y'KNOW? THERE JUST HAS TO --
MJ... WAIT, PLEASE!

I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU...